without being subject to the three year profitability condition, up from existing limit of US$ 50 million (Budget announcement 2002-03).

31. Indian Companies making overseas investment in joint ventures abroad by market purchases may now do so without prior approval upto 50% of their net worth, up from existing limit of 25% (Budget announcement 2002-03).

32. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

33. For reduction of transaction time for export/Import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalized the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.

34. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.

35. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Declaration of National Highways in Karnataka

*376. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Highways, indicating their length, declared as National Highways, so far, since 1998-99, in various States;

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has requested his Ministry to declare approximately 1100 Kilometre of roads as National Highways; and

(c) if so, the details of the projects and the action taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) A statement giving details is annexed *(See* below).

(b) and (c) During the 9th Plan, 20 proposals relating to declaration of about 4300 km length of state roads in Karnataka were received from time to time out of which 7 proposals aggregating to 1574 km. length had been declared as new National Highways during the Plan period including 1204 km declared since 1998-1999. The remaining proposals would be considered alongwith similar proposals received from other State Governments after the finalisation of the 10th Five-Year Plan and availability of funds, keeping in view the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways, traffic needs and *inter-se* priority.

Statement

List *of National Highways declared since 1998-1999*

SI. No.	Name of State	National Highway No.	Total Length (in Kms.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Ext. of NH-9, 202, 205, 214 & 219	1088
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	153	40
3.	Assam	Extn. of NH 54, 151, 152, 153 & 154	474
4.	Bihar	30A, 77, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106 & 107	1719
5.	Chandigarh	NIL	—
6.	Chhattisgarh	12A, 78, 200, 202, 216 & 217	934
7.	Delhi	NIL	—
8.	Goa	NIL	—
9.	Gujarat	Extn. of 6, 8A, 8D, 8E	459
10.	Haryana	21A, 71, 71A, 72 & 73	423
11.	Himachal Pradesh	21A, 70, 72 & 88	334
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	1C & Extn. of IB	175
13.	Jharkhand	Extn of 75, 78, 80, 98, 99 & 100	649
14.	Karnataka	Extn. 13, 206, 207, 209, 212, 213 & 218	1204
15.	Kerala	208, 212, 213 & 220	500
16.	Madhya Pradesh	12A, 59A, 75, Extn. of 75. 76, 78, 79, 86, Extn. of 86 & 92	2124

1	2	3	4
17.	Maharashtra	204 & 211	526
18.	Manipur	150	523
19.	Meghalaya	Extn. of 40 & Extn. of 62	120
20.	Mizoram	44A, 150 & 154	376
21.	Nagaland	150	36
22.	Orissa	200, 201, 203, 215 & 217	1595
23.	Pondicherry	Extn. of 45A	20
24.	Punjab	Extn. of 64, 70, 71 & 95	436
25.	Rajasthan	Extn. of 11 A, Extn. of 65, 76, 79, 79A, 89 & 90	1496
26.	Sikkim	NIL	—
27.	Tamil Nadu	Extn. of 45A, 45B, Extn. of 67, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 219 & 220	1277
28.	Tripura	44A	65
29.	Uttaranchal	72, 72A, 73, 74, 87, 94, 108 & 109	702
30.	Uttar Pradesh	2A, 24A, 25A, 56A, 56B, Extn. of 58, 72, 72A, 73, 74, 75, Extn. of 75, 76, 86, 91, 92. 93, 94, 96 & 97	2055
31.	West Bengal	Extn. of 60, 80 & 81	245
		TOTAL:	19595

Lowering of telephone charges

*377. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone is essential for lower middle class and retired employees;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the number of free calls and reduce the rental charges to help the poor subscriber; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD M AH A J AN): (a) to (c) One of the objectives and targets of New telecom Policy' 99